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## **Baesler Urges Teachers To Seek Student Loan Aid**

**BISMARCK, N.D., March 30, 2016** – School Superintendent Kirsten Baesler on Tuesday encouraged North Dakota teachers who have student loan debts to take advantage of a state program that will help them pay their obligations.

The debt forgiveness program is available to North Dakota teachers who are teaching full-time at a public or private school that is approved by the Department of Public Instruction, Baesler said Tuesday.

Teachers who are eligible for the program may receive up to \$1,000 per year, with a maximum benefit of \$3,000 over three years. Last year, 426 teachers received a total of \$424,885 to apply to their student loan debts, Baesler said.

The North Dakota University system handles debt forgiveness applications. They may be downloaded from the system's website here: <http://ndus.edu/uploads/resources/6789/2016-teacher-shortage-loan-forgiveness-application.pdf>

Requests for applications also may be directed to the system's office by phone (701-328-2906); by email ([NDFinAid@ndus.edu](mailto:NDFinAid@ndus.edu)); or by regular mail (North Dakota University System, State Capitol Judicial Wing, Room 103, 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 21, Bismarck, N.D., 58505-0602).

**Applications will be accepted starting April 1, 2016. Applications arriving before April 1 will not be accepted. The application period ends at midnight on May 16, 2016.**

Educators who are teaching full-time in North Dakota in a teacher shortage area are eligible for assistance. Applicants must be teaching full-time with a teaching contract of at least nine months' duration, have a qualifying student loan, and be current on the payments to that loan.

A qualifying student loan means a Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Stafford subsidized and unsubsidized loans, Dakota Education Alternative Loan (DEAL) obtained through the Bank of North Dakota, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan subsidized and unsubsidized loans, Federal Perkins Loan, or FFEL or William D. Ford Federal Direct Consolidated Loans.

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